

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 /075 W
----- 061640

R 211842Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6686

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR OAS VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN OIL EXPERT CALLS FOR CREATION OF NEW
HEMISPHERIC BODY

BEGIN SUMMARY. VENEZUELAN DEPUTY ARTURO HERNANDEZ GRISANTI THIS WEEK CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF A LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE THE US AND REPLACE THE OAS. HE SAID THAT THE SEVENTH ASSEMBLY OF LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS, WHICH WILL CONVENE IN CARACAS IN FEBRUARY 1975, WILL CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL. FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT COMMENTED TO THE PRESS THAT WHILE IDEA OF A LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION WAS INTERESTING, IT SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE OAS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 18, DEPUTY ARTURO HERANDEZ GRISANTI, A LEADING EXPERT ON VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM POLICY FOR MANY YEARS, PROPOSED THE FORMATION OF A NEW LATIN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE OAS. NOTING THAT THE LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS, OF WHICH HE IS THE CURRENT PRESIDENT, HAD APPROVED A PROPOSED TREATY FOR A LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, GRISANTI SAID THE TIME HAS COME TO INTEGRATE THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA IN A FULL-FLEDGED POLITICAL BODY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE CAPACITY OF SELF-DETERMINATION

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IN DEALING WITH A WORLD CHARACTERIZED MORE AND MORE BY LARGE

REGIONAL GROUPINGS. GRISANTI EMPHASIZED THAT ONLY A UNITED LATIN AMERICA COULD MODIFY THE PRESENT IMBALANCE BETWEEN "ONE INDUSTRIAL SUPERPOWER AND 24 UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES" AND CREATE THE POSSIBILITY OF A DIALOGUE "WITHOUT VASSALAGE NOR IMPERIALISM". HE SAID IT IS EVIDENT THE LATIN AMERICAN SYSTEM IS FACED WITH A CRISIS SINCE AN AMPLE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS CANNOT PUT IN MOVEMENT THE PONDEROUS MECHANISMS OF THE OAS.

2. GRISANTI ANNOUNCED THAT THE SUBJECT OF LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL INTEGRATION WOULD BE TAKEN UP AT THE MEETINGS OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN ARGENTINA DECEMBER 3-5. HE ADDED THAT THE SEVENTH ASSEMBLY OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS, WHEN IT MEETS IN CARACAS IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR, WILL REACH A DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT ON A CONSTITUTION FOR THE PROPOSED REGIONAL ORGANIZATION.

3. IN A COMMENT TO THE PRESS NOVEMBER 19 VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT SAID THE CREATION OF A NEW LATIN AMERICAN BODY WAS A "VERY INTERESTING" IDEA BUT IN NO WAY SHOULD IMPLY THE ELIMINATION OF THE OAS. SHOULD A NEW ORGANIZATION BE CREATED, SCHACHT SAID IT WOULD BE DEDICATED EXCLUSIVELY TO LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC MATTERS. "IT WOULD NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE OAS," HE ADDED.

4. COMMENT. GRISANTI'S STATEMENT, AS HEAD OF THE LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT, IS NOT SURPRISING AND IS IN KEEPING WITH HIS NATIONALIST POSITION ON PETROLEUM MATTERS. AS INDICATED IN SCHACHT'S COMMENT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS MUCH SUPPORT HERE FOR A LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION TO REPLACE THE OAS. HOWEVER, THE IDEA OF AN ECONOMIC GROUPING WOULD BE CONSONANT WITH THE GOV'S POSITION THAT THE LATIN AMERICAN RAW MATERIAL PRODUCERS SHOULD BE MORE COHESIVE IN PROTECTING THEIR INTERESTS VIS-A-VIS THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, CONSULTANTS, PROPOSALS (BID), ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CARACA11547
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740338-0148
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741125/aaaaauss.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENEZUELAN OIL EXPERT CALLS FOR CREATION OF NEW HEMISPHERIC BODY
TAGS: PFOR, VE, XM, OAS, (GRISANTI, ARTURO HERNANDEZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005